

To Public Health Committee Chairs Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams and Representative Jonathan Steinberg,

My name is Yosha Singh, and I am a graduate student at the Yale School of Public Health studying health policy. I am writing today in **strong support of HB 5044, An Act Concerning Immunizations**.

After graduating from Yale this May, I will be attending medical school. I am thus coming to you as an advocate for the promotion of both public health, as well as individual patients' rights.

As a student of science, I know vaccines to be widely recognized as one of the greatest medical breakthroughs in the modern era. However, in order for vaccines to work effectively, herd immunity must be achieved within a population — which is to say that a sufficient portion of the population must be properly vaccinated to stop dangerous pathogens from spreading.

Moreover, as a student of health and public policy, I am aware that immunization programs are invisible when working effectively. Because use of vaccines have stifled the spread of infectious disease, the general public does not have to be made aware of threats of infectious disease. Recent outbreaks — such as recent measles outbreaks — have signaled the importance of maintaining robust immunization programs to ensure herd immunity.

Policies such as those proposed by HB 5044 are considered by experts to promote higher rates of immunization and lower rates of vaccine-preventable disease.

It is thus with a scientific and policy background — as well as an allegiance to value both public health and individual patient rights — that I write in support of HB 5044. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Yosha Singh
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